

REMARKS

In this paper, claims 34 and 42 are currently amended, and claims 56-60 and 66-72 are canceled. After entry of the above amendment, claims 34-37, 40-47, 49-55 and 61-65 are pending, and claims 1-33, 38-39, 48, 56-60 and 66-72 have been canceled.

An Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) accompanies this amendment. If the IDS is not in the PTO file when the examiner considers this amendment, the examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned so that a duplicate copy may be provided.

Claims 34-37, 42-47 and 49-52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Higuchi (WO 92/19488). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 34 has been amended to clarify that the finger contact projection is coupled to the rotatable dial so that rotation of the finger contact projection correspondingly rotates the rotatable dial to move the shift element coupler and thereby operate the shift control device. Higuchi discloses a bicycle gear change lever comprising a lever shaft (7) and a control lever (8). The control lever (8) has a tubular body portion (9) and a control arm portion (10), wherein the tubular body portion (9) is rotatably supported by the lever shaft (7), and the control arm portion (10) extends radially outwardly from the tubular body portion (9). A screw (18a) screws into the lever shaft (7) to retain the control lever (8) and other components to lever shaft (7).

Insofar as the screw (18a) is interpreted to be a finger contact projection, then rotation of screw (18a) does not rotate the rotatable dial to move a shift element coupler and thereby operate the shift control device. Rotation of screw (18a) only attaches and removes the various components from the bicycle frame. Accordingly, Higuchi neither discloses nor suggests the presently claimed subject matter.

Claims 34-37, 40, 41, 44, 49-51, 53, 56-59 and 71 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Wechsler (US 3, 965,763). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 56-59 and 71 have been canceled, so this basis for rejection is considered moot for those claims.

As for claims 34-37, 40, 41, 44, 49-51 and 53, independent claim 34 has been amended to clarify that an attachment band extends from the base member, wherein the attachment band is structured to surround a handlebar. Wechsler discloses a bicycle gear shift wherein a plate-shaped base member attaches the device to the front of the handlebar through two different screws. This is a very cumbersome attachment method and does not lend itself to adjustment. Accordingly, Wechsler neither discloses nor suggests the presently claimed subject matter.

Claims 54-55 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wechsler in view of White, et al (US 3,398,600). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed for the same reasons noted above when discussing the Wechsler anticipation rejection.

Claims 61-70 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wechsler in view of Knop (US 3,766,793).

Claims 66-70 have been canceled, so this basis for rejection is considered moot for those claims. As for claims 61-65, this basis for rejection is respectfully traversed for the same reasons noted above when discussing the Wechsler anticipation rejection, together with the reasons noted in applicant's previous response to this basis for rejection.

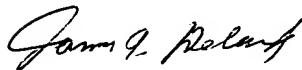
Claim 72 also was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wechsler in view of Knop. Claim 72 has been canceled, so this basis for rejection is considered moot.

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103 have been overcome by the foregoing amendment and remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

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PATENT

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James A. Deland".

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